

Senate File 296 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 296

BY DONAHUE, BISIGNANO,
DOTZLER, KNOX, T. TAYLOR,
CELSI, GIDDENS, JOCHUM,
TRONE GARRIOTT, WAHLS,
QUIIRMBACH, BOULTON,
PETERSEN, and WEINER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to public school personnel training concerning
2 mental health.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 279.70, Code 2023, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsections:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 4. By July 1, 2024, the board of directors
4 of a school district shall require annual, evidence-based
5 training on educator mental wellness and self-identification
6 and mitigation of negative mental health symptoms for
7 all school personnel who hold a license, certificate,
8 authorization, or statement of recognition issued by the board
9 of educational examiners and who have regular contact with
10 students in kindergarten through grade twelve. The training
11 shall take place within the first sixty days of the beginning
12 of a school calendar, and the content of the training shall
13 be based on nationally recognized best practices. The state
14 board of education shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A to
15 determine the qualifications required of a person who conducts
16 training pursuant to this subsection.

17 NEW SUBSECTION. 5. By July 1, 2024, the board of directors
18 of a school district shall require annual, evidence-based
19 training on student social and emotional wellness and the
20 identification and mitigation of negative mental health
21 symptoms in students for all school personnel who hold
22 a license, certificate, authorization, or statement of
23 recognition issued by the board of educational examiners and
24 who have regular contact with students in kindergarten through
25 grade twelve. The training shall take place in January or
26 February, and the content of the training shall be based
27 on nationally recognized best practices. The state board
28 of education shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A to
29 determine the qualifications required of a person who conducts
30 training pursuant to this subsection.

31 EXPLANATION

32 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
33 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

34 This bill relates to public school personnel training
35 concerning mental health.

1 The bill requires each board of directors of a school
2 district by July 1, 2024, to require annual, evidence-based
3 training on educator mental wellness and self-identification
4 and mitigation of negative mental health symptoms for
5 all school personnel who hold a license, certificate,
6 authorization, or statement of recognition issued by the board
7 of educational examiners and who have regular contact with
8 students in kindergarten through grade 12. The bill makes
9 a similar requirement for training on student social and
10 emotional wellness and the identification and mitigation of
11 negative mental health symptoms in students. The content of
12 each type of training must be based on nationally recognized
13 best practices. The bill directs the state board of education
14 to adopt rules to determine the qualifications required of a
15 person who conducts each type of training.

16 The bill requires training on educator mental wellness to
17 take place within the first 60 days of the beginning of a
18 school calendar, and training on student social and emotional
19 wellness to take place in January or February.